

CLARK COUNTY CLEAN WATER COMMISSION

Wednesday, April 4, 2001
6:00 – 7:00 PM

Clark County Public Works Department
Conference Room
4700 NE 78th Street
Vancouver, Washington

Call to Order

Roll Call:

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Present

Robbie Agard, Willie Bourlet, Cal Ek, Mary Martin, Susan Rasmussen,
Don Steinke, Art Stubbs, and Peter Tuck

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Excused Absence

Dana Kemper

Clark County Public Works Staff

Kelli Frost, and Earl Rowell

Public

Gary Bock, Watershed Stewards; Vaughn Brown, Jeanne Lawson Associates; Rusty Post, Washington Department of Ecology; Stacy Renfro, SWRP; and Virginia VanBreen

Introduction:

The members of the Clark County Clean Water Commission, Clark County staff, and public were introduced. Vice-Chair, Commissioner Agard, then called the meeting to order.

Agenda and material review:

The material for tonight's meeting include:

1. 4/04/01 Clark County Clean Water Commission Meeting Agenda;
- 1b. 4/04/01 Clark County Clean Water Commission Work Session Agenda;
- 1c. Clark County Clean Water Commission Work Session 2 Format and Outline;
2. 3/21/01 Clark County Clean Water Commission Meeting notes;
- 2b. 3/21/01 Clark County Clean Water Commission Work Session Notes;
3. 3/07/01 Clark County Clean Water Commission Meeting Notes Amended;
4. Clark County Clean Water Commission Work Session handouts;
5. Final draft, Year 2000 Clark County Clean Water Commission Annual Report;
6. Rough Draft 4/03/01 edited Proposed Modifications to CCC 13.30A; and

7. A copy of a Clark County Staff Report dated, March 5, which authorizes the Public Works director to execute an Agreement with Jeanne Lawson Associates for Clean Water Commission facilitation services.

Updates/Communications from the public/media/agencies:

Mr. Rowell reminded the Clark County Clean Water Commissioners that members from the Endangered Species Act would be giving a presentation at the next Clark County Clean Water Commission meeting on April 18, 2001.

Mr. Rowell noted that the Clark County Clean Water Commissioners will have a scheduled work session on April 25, 2001, with the Board of County Commissioners, in which they will present the Clark County Clean Water Commission year 2000 Annual Report.

Mr. Agard: If any of the Clark County Clean Water Commissioners have any questions they would like to pass onto the Board of County Commissioners, please e-mail them to Earl Rowell.

Mrs. Rasmussen: Are we participating in the Home and Garden show at the Clark County Fairgrounds?

Mr. Rowell: I'll check with Cindy Meats and see what we have planned. In the past, we have coordinated a booth with other jurisdictions such as the Washington Health District, as opposed to having our own booth.

Mr. Bourlet: Next year I think we should look into having school kids demonstrate and display what they do in testing/monitoring the water. We can use them to help show what is being done to help clean up the water in the County.

Mr. Bock: At the Home and Garden Idea Fair, there will be an environmental building, which is provided and financed by Clark Public Utilities; participants will include, Watershed Stewards, Clark County Water Resources, Clark County Environmental Services, and Southwest Washington Air Pollution Control.

Mr. Bock also informed the Commissioners that the Watershed Stewards will have a display at the Lacamas Festival held on Saturday, April 14, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. On April 18th the Water Resources Education Center will be holding a watershed congress, where different school groups display projects and talk about water related programs.

Mr. Agard asked Mr. Bock if he was involved in the Enviro-thon held at the Casee center, and if he would give the Clark County Clean Water Commissioners an overview of this event.

Mr. Bock: A number of the Watershed Stewards volunteered their time to help out in this event. The Enviro-thon is a contest between area high schools from Southwest Washington, who have been training in ecology. The students participate in a "science olympics" the group with the most points is the winner.

3/21/01 notes:

Mr. Ek questioned why there was a separation between an unexcused absence and an excused absence.

Mr. Agard: This Commission will need to look into this issue, we are having twice the number of meetings than when we first started, and are allowed a limited number of absences as stated in the By- laws.

From the Clark County Clean Water Commission bylaws adopted 5/17/00

Section 12. Absence of Members

The Chair shall, at the discretion of the Clean Water Commission, request that the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners ask for the resignation of any member who is absent for three consecutive regular meetings, or is absent for 25% of the meetings, without being excused by the Clean Water Commission.

Mr. Tuck stated that he was at the last Clark County Clean Water Commission meeting 3/28/01, and was left off the Roll Call.

The minutes for the 3/28/01 Clark County Clean Water Commission were approved with the following corrections.

Peter Tuck will be listed as present for the meeting.

Mary Martin will be listed as an Excused absence.

Group Discussion

Stacy Renfro:

Mr. Agard introduced Stacy Renfro, Program Director for SWRP, Student Watershed Research Project.

Ms. Renfro: The Student Watershed Research Project is a long term monitoring program, based at the Oregon Graduate Institute. This project started in 1991 when a group of teachers and agency scientists in the Portland area started to look at the question of whether students could effectively contribute to the scientific knowledge about water quality in our area and what would it take to get it started. The group received a National Science Foundation Grant, and put together an advisory committee made up of teachers and agency professionals.

The way that the program works is:

- ◆ Every summer we offer a 5-day intensive-monitoring workshop, called Riparian and Aquatic Ecosystem Monitoring, and require that teachers who want to be involved in our program attend this workshop.
- ◆ In September we start the process of preparing/training the teachers.
- ◆ In October the students go out into the field and collect data, SWRP officials collect a duplicate sample that is analyzed by a professional laboratory.
- ◆ The data is turned into and double-checked at SWRP. If there are problems with the data collected by the students, SWRP officials troubleshoot to correct.
- ◆ In April the students collect data again.
- ◆ In May the students present their findings at the Student Watershed Summit.

The primary goals of the program are:

- Education of students outside of the classroom.
- To provide that information to agencies.

Ms. Renfro: We have found that the information becomes more valuable over time. When one collects environmental data twice a year, one cannot tell after one year what is happening in a creek, but over time you may become aware of how land use is changing the way a creek is reacting. Students in our program have documented the change of a rural system to an urban system and the repercussions within the creek.

This program allows students to learn something and to talk to their families about it, and to realize that they have something to offer to the larger system, as citizens they can have an effect on what is happening in our natural systems.

Mr. Stubbs: Are agencies receptive to your inquiries?

Ms. Renfro: Yes.

Mr. Ek: What is the scope of your contact with students in terms of numbers.

Ms. Renfro: In Clark County we have two teachers who are working with approximately 80 students. Overall between Oregon and Washington, we are working with 24 teachers and 1,000 – 1,500 students per year.

Mr. Ek: Can you expect those numbers to be repeated every year with different students?

Ms. Renfro: Yes.

Mr. Ek: What kinds of situations have arisen where the data wasn't usable.

Ms. Renfro: That is one of the things we're very adamant about in terms of coordinating the program and the data management system. When students turn their data in and we receive quality control data from the lab both get checked against historical statistics.

Mr. Agard: Do you have an estimated cost per student per year?

Ms. Renfro: It costs approximately \$150.00 per student/per year, or about \$5,000 per teacher/per year.

Mrs. Rasmussen: Are there any other Future Farmers of America teachers besides John Akers who participate?

Ms. Renfro: Not that I'm aware of, but I think that is an excellent model.

Ms. Renfro: We are very interested in moving into Clark County. There are some excellent programs happening in Clark County and I think that what we have to offer that they are lacking is data management and quality assurance. I'd like to see a collaborative approach where we can work with the other programs.

Mr. Ek: **Motion 2001-0404-06: I move that this Commission actively pursue the idea of collaboration with SWRP.**

Motion passed.

Mr. Agard: Gary, I'm extremely happy to hear that the Watershed Stewards will be participating at the garden fair, because these are the type of people we need in the Watershed Steward program.

Mr. Agard: Kelli would you send the Commissioners a calendar of upcoming water-related events?

Mrs. Frost: Absolutely.

Final 2000 Annual Report:

Mr. Agard: Are there any comments or corrections to the Annual Report?

Mr. Bourlet: I would suggest that we look at this very carefully so next year we will be better prepared to take an active roll and possibly revise the guidelines.

Mr. Stubbs: **Motion 2001-0404-06, I move that the Annual Report be accepted as submitted.**

Motion passed.

Modified CCC 13.30A:

Mr. Bourlet: **Motion 2001-0404-07, I move that we inform the Board of County Commissioner that we approve of the modified version of CCC 13.30A.**

Motion passed.

Mr. Bourlet: For the record, I want these two items (Annual Report and Modified CCC 13.30A) we as a Commission want to take up at a later date to look at how we may want to make changes for next time.

Mr. Agard: Can we make sure that in two to three months we revisit these issues?

Mr. Agard: **Motion 2001-0404-08 – Motion to include in the cover letter to the Board of County Commissioners as part of the Year 2000 Annual report, the need to increase the education portion of the budget; and to request a need for more cooperation between County departments and with other agencies.**

Motion passed.

Mrs. VanBreeman: I have a complaint about the Watershed Stewards Program. There are not many handouts in this program. I'm concurrently involved in another program and there are many more handouts involved in the other program compared to the Watershed Stewards Program. I feel that handouts are informative and helpful to the program.

Mr. Rowell: Have you talked to Mr. Bock?

Mrs. VanBreeman: No I just started talking about it today to someone else.

Mr. Rowell: As you know we have submitted a grant with Washington Department of Ecology and many of the issues Ms. Renfro talked about tonight would be items the grant would fund. They have equipment, but there would be more equipment that would be necessary. Washington State University Vancouver Campus has an environmental group as well, I would propose for these groups to form a coordinated effort to get a program started in Clark County.

Mr. Agard: I like the idea of having a choice between WSU and SWRP. Frankly I have not seen that much outpouring from WSU into Clark County.

Mr. Ek: I recommend that Mr. Agard sign the cover letter on behalf of the Clark County Clean Water Commission if Mr. Kemper is unavailable.

Mr. Agard: I would like to see one of the Clark County Clean Water Commissioners participate on the Watershed Stewards Oversight Committee. I will talk with Mr. Bock and find out what kind of commitment there is regarding the oversight committee.

Mrs. Rasmussen: Where is the County at in regards to the recent lawsuit filed by Mr. Karpinski?

Mr. Rowell: More discussion is needed and staff will be going to the Washington Department of Ecology on Wednesday, April 18th to discuss their position on the lawsuit.

Mr. Ek: Can you discuss what the major claims are regarding the lawsuit?

Mr. Rowell: There are 22 major issues.

Adjourn

Mr. Agard adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Looking Ahead

April 18:	Presentation from Mr. Rupley and Mr. Tyler of the ESA program.
April 25:	Work Session with Board of County Commissioners.
June:	Clean Water Fee bills mailed.
July:	Clean Water Fee bills due.
September:	Begin work on 2003-2004 budget
September:	Begin/revisit looking at the process for developing the Annual report and Modifications to the ordinance.

Respectfully submitted by Kelli Frost

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